Air India staff of Dubai

997. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had recalled the entire Indian staff based at its office in Dubai in September last year;

(b) if so, in what circumstances; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to improve the conditions in that office?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the seizure of gold by Customs on Air India flight AI-744 of 29th August, 1994 on Dubai-Bombay sector, the Government had decided to recall Air India staff handling flight operations at Dubai. Accordingly, the concerned staff was recalled in phases from October, 1994 to February, 1995 by Air India.

(c) Engineering personnel have been instructed to check the avionics compartment on all departures. The security arrangements are reviewed periodically and surprise checks are undertaken to ensure that the system is working properly.

Plans to encourage tourism in Punjab

998. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the action plan to encourage tourism in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to develop and promote tourism in the Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India has formulated a National Action Plan for Tourism in 1992. The National Action Plan provides the guidelines for the development of tourism in all the potential areas of the country including Punjab.

The main items of the Action Plan are given in the annexed, Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Deptt. of Tourism provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure to State Governments/ Union Territories, on receipt of specific proposals from State Governments/ Union Territories. During the current year the Deptt. of Tourism has sanctioned the following three proposals for development of tourism infrastructure in Punjab:—

1. Tourist Complex at Patala sanctioned for	Rs. 21.19 lakhs
Released	10.00 ,,
2. Tourist Complex at Harike sanctioned for	Rs. 20.09 lakhs
Released	10.00 ,,
3. Tourist Complex at Sunam sanctioned for Rs.	21.19 lakhs
Released	10.00 ,,

Statement

(1) Identification of Special Tourism Areas.

(2) Identification of circuits/destinations for intensive development.

(3) Special category of heritage hotels/health resorts to be created and provided.

Technical consultancy help loans from financial institutitns interest subsidy marketing and operational expertise.

(4) Revamping of foreign offices to make them more accountable in terms of specified targets.

(5) Information revolution; information system to be revamped to provide positive projections of India in all leading markets.

(6) Restructuring and strengthening institutions for manpower development.

7. Improvement of tourist infrastructure.

Agitation by pilots and Engineers of IA

999. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots and engineers of the Indian Airlines launched any agitation recently to protest against the promotions given to those pilots who rejoined the Airlines after serving private airlines for a short time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Two of the pilots who had submitted their resignations to Indian Airlines, wanted to join back. Since their resignations had not been accepted, they were allowed to do so and also retain their seniority. This was resisted by the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) and some of its members reported sick en masse during the period 28-10-1994 to 2-11—1994.

(c) Discussions were held with the ICPA and it was decided that guidelines will be framed to deal with such cases in future.

एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइंस द्वारा नीतियों की निन्दा किया जाना

1000. **श्री गोविंद राव आदिक** : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 1 फरवरी, 1995 के "टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया" में "बृजेश कुमार, न्यू ए०आई०—म०डी०" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि एयर इंडिया और इंडियन एयरलाइंस ने सरकार द्वारा बनाई गई नीतियों और उठाये गये कदमों की निन्दा की है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन्होंने पहले भी कई बार प्रेस के सामने सरकार की ऐसी नीतियों की निन्दा की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार अपनी नीतियों की आलोचना को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) जी, नहीं । एयर इंडिया/इंडियन एयरलाइंस को इस विषय पर शासकीय तौर पर कुछ नहीं कहना है और समाचार-पत्रों के उद्धरण व्यक्तियों के उनकी व्यक्तिगत हैसियत में अपने विचार हैं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Training to pilots

1001. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHI NANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether training to pilots in India is adequate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake a serious study for enriching the pilots training to avoid mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Government has taken the following steps for enriching the pilots training to avoid mishaps:—

(i) Providing simulators to flying clubs;